

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A built-in cooking appliance comprising a main body that includes a casing having an opening defined therein at an upper portion thereof, a heat source accommodated in the casing, and a top plate unit fastened ~~fixed~~ to the casing so as to close the opening in the casing, the main body being adapted to be inserted into an opening defined in a kitchen counter such that a lower surface of the top plate unit is placed on the kitchen counter, wherein the top plate unit includes:

a top plate for supporting an object to be heated;

an underframe holding the top plate placed on an upper surface thereof, the underframe extending outwardly beyond an entire outer peripheral edge of the top plate, wherein the underframe has ~~having~~ an outer peripheral edge arranged to confront an upper surface of the kitchen counter; and

a decorative panel covering an upper portion of an outer peripheral edge of the top plate, wherein the decorative panel has an inwardly bent portion that has been formed by bending an outer peripheral edge portion of the decorative panel inwardly toward a lower surface of the underframe to hold the outer peripheral edge of the underframe.

2. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1 received in an opening defined therein, wherein at least a portion of the inwardly bent portion is sandwiched between the outer peripheral edge of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter such that part or all of a total weight of the main body is applied to the portion of the inwardly bent portion that is sandwiched between the outer peripheral edge of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.

3. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1 received in an opening defined therein, wherein a surface of the underframe on which the top plate is placed is lower than the upper surface of the kitchen counter on which the decorative panel is placed.

4. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having a built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1 received in an opening defined therein, wherein when the main body is inserted into the opening in the kitchen counter,

wherein a predetermined clearance is created between the upper surface of the kitchen counter and the lower surface of the underframe inside the inwardly bent portion of the decorative panel, and

wherein a sealant is provided in the predetermined clearance below the lower surface of the underframe.

5. (Previously Presented) The built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the top plate, the underframe, and the decorative panel are bonded together at the same time.

6. (Original) The built-in cooking appliance according to claim 5, wherein the underframe has a downwardly protruding adhesive receiving groove defined therein below the outer peripheral edge of the top plate, and further comprising an adhesive received in the adhesive receiving groove to bond the top plate, the underframe, and the decorative panel together at the same time.

7. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1 received in an opening defined therein, the kitchen counter comprising:

an upper surface on which the built-in cooking appliance is placed; and

a stepped portion formed around the opening so as to be lower than the upper surface of the kitchen counter,

wherein a lower surface of the inwardly bent portion of the decorative panel is held in contact with the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and a predetermined clearance is provided between a lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the stepped portion.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 6 received in an opening defined therein, the kitchen counter comprising:

an upper surface on which the built-in cooking appliance is placed; and

a stepped portion formed around the opening so as to be lower than the upper surface of the kitchen counter,

wherein a lower surface of the inwardly bent portion of the decorative panel is held in contact with the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and a predetermined clearance is provided between a lower surface of the adhesive receiving groove and the upper surface of the stepped portion.

10. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1 received in an opening defined therein, wherein a lower surface of the underframe

faces the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and wherein the outer peripheral edge portion of the decorative panel is sandwiched between the lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.

11. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1 received in an opening defined therein, wherein a lower surface of the underframe faces the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and wherein the outer peripheral edge portion of the decorative panel contacts the lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.

12. (Currently Amended) A built-in cooking appliance comprising a main body that includes a casing having an opening defined therein at an upper portion thereof, a heat source accommodated in the casing, and a top plate unit fastened ~~fixed~~ to the casing so as to close the opening in the casing, the main body being adapted to be inserted into an opening defined in a kitchen counter such that a lower surface of the top plate unit is placed on the kitchen counter, wherein the top plate unit includes:

a top plate for supporting an object to be heated;

an underframe supporting the top plate placed on an upper surface thereof, the underframe extending outwardly beyond an entire outer peripheral edge of the top plate, wherein the underframe has ~~having~~ an outer peripheral edge arranged to face an upper surface of the kitchen counter and support the top plate unit on the upper surface of the kitchen counter; and

a decorative panel covering an upper portion of an outer peripheral edge of the top plate,

wherein an inner peripheral edge of the decorative panel is connected to an upper surface of the top plate, and

wherein an outer peripheral edge of the decorative panel is bent around the underframe and contacts a lower surface of the underframe such that the decorative panel holds the top plate to the underframe.

13. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 12 received in an opening defined therein, wherein at least a portion of the inwardly bent portion is sandwiched between the outer peripheral edge of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter such that part or all of a total weight of the main body is applied to the portion of the inwardly bent portion that is sandwiched between the outer peripheral edge of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.

14. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 12 received in an opening defined therein, wherein a surface of the underframe on which the top plate is placed is lower than the upper surface of the kitchen counter on which the decorative panel is placed.

15. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having a built-in cooking appliance according claim 12 received in an opening defined therein, wherein when the main body is inserted into the opening in the kitchen counter,

wherein a predetermined clearance is created between the upper surface of the kitchen counter and the lower surface of the underframe inside the inwardly bent portion of the decorative panel, and

wherein a sealant is provided in the predetermined clearance below the lower surface of the underframe.

16. (Previously Presented) The built-in cooking appliance according to claim 12, wherein the top plate, the underframe, and the decorative panel are bonded together at the same time, and

wherein the underframe has a downwardly protruding adhesive receiving groove defined therein below the outer peripheral edge of the top plate, and further comprising an adhesive received in the adhesive receiving groove to bond the top plate, the underframe, and the decorative panel together at the same time.

17. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 12 received in an opening defined therein, the kitchen counter comprising:

an upper surface on which the built-in cooking appliance is placed; and

a stepped portion formed around the opening so as to be lower than the upper surface of the kitchen counter,

wherein a lower surface of the inwardly bent portion of the decorative panel is held in contact with the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and a predetermined clearance is provided between a lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the stepped portion.

18. (Previously Presented) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 17 received in an opening defined therein, the kitchen counter comprising:

an upper surface on which the built-in cooking appliance is placed; and

a stepped portion formed around the opening so as to be lower than the upper surface of the kitchen counter,

wherein a lower surface of the inwardly bent portion of the decorative panel is held in contact with the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and a predetermined clearance is provided between a lower surface of the adhesive receiving groove and the upper surface of the stepped portion.

19. (Currently Amended) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the underframe is disposed between the heat source and the top plate.

~~received in an opening defined therein, wherein a lower surface of the underframe faces the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and wherein the outer peripheral edge portion of the decorative panel is sandwiched between the lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A kitchen counter having the built-in cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the top plate unit is screwed to the casing. ~~received in an opening defined~~

~~therein, wherein a lower surface of the underframe faces the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and wherein the outer peripheral edge portion of the decorative panel contacts the lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A kitchen counter having an opening defined therein, an upper surface, and a built-in cooking appliance received in the opening, the built-in cooking appliance comprising a main body that includes a casing having an opening defined therein at an upper portion thereof, a heat source accommodated in the casing, and a top plate unit fastened ~~fixed~~ to the casing so as to close the opening in the casing, the main body being adapted to be inserted into an opening defined in a kitchen counter such that a lower surface of the top plate unit is placed on the kitchen counter, wherein the top plate unit includes:

a top plate for supporting an object to be heated;

an underframe supporting the top plate placed on an upper surface thereof, the underframe extending outwardly beyond an entire outer peripheral edge of the top plate, wherein the underframe has ~~having~~ an outer peripheral edge facing an upper surface of the kitchen counter and supporting the top plate unit on the upper surface of the kitchen counter; and

a decorative panel covering an upper portion of an outer peripheral edge of the top plate, wherein an inner peripheral edge of the decorative panel is connected to an upper surface of the top plate,

wherein an outer peripheral edge of the decorative panel is bent around the underframe and contacts a lower surface of the underframe such that the decorative panel holds the top plate to the underframe, and

wherein a lower surface of the underframe faces the upper surface of the kitchen counter, and the outer peripheral edge portion of the decorative panel is sandwiched between the lower surface of the underframe and the upper surface of the kitchen counter.